

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00338 241533Z
ACTION EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W
-----241646Z 079007 /50

P R 241505Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7289

UNCLAS VALLETTA 0338

FOR IOP/M, IEU

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: WIS-026

1. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL ENTITLED "HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUE" WHICH APPREARED IN TIMES OF MALTA MARCH 24.

2. BEGIN TEXT: OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS SINCE BECOMING
PRESIDENT, MR. CARTER HAS BEEN THE TORCH BEARER IN THE
INTERNATIONAL QUEST FOR THE GRANTING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE
SOVIET UNION AND ITS SATELLITE COUNTRIES. HE HAS SHOWN AN
ADMIRABLE SINGLE-MINDEDNESS OF PURPOSE IN THIS CAUSE.

3. MR. CARTER HAS REMAINED UNMOVED EVEN BY SUCH SHARP
REMARKS BY THE SOVIET PRIME MINISTER THAT THE NORMAL
DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS WAS UNTHINKABLE SO LONG AS THE U.S.
CONTINUED TO INTERFERE IN WHAT HE TERMED WERE THE INTERNAL
AFFAIRS OF THE SOVIET UNION. MR. BREZHNEV ALSO HINTED THAT
THE ATTAINMENT OF AN ACCORD TO REPLACE THE 1972 SALT AGREEMENT,
WHICH RUNS OUT IN OCTOBER, MIGHT BE DIFFICULT UNLESS THE UNITED
STATES TONED DOWN ITS CAMPAIGNING FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES. THE
POINT THE RUSSIANS PERSIST IN MISSING IS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS
AFTER THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY HAVE CEASED
TO BE PURELY THE AFFAIRS OF A SINGLE COUNTRY. THE SOVIETS
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HAVE SIGNED THE ACCORD AND THE WORLD HAS A RIGHT TO EXPECT
THAT THE SOVIETS LIVE UP TO IT.

4. FAILURE BY THE RUSSIANS TO ABIDE BY WHAT THEY HAD SIGNED
WOULD DESTROY ANY CREDIBILITY HITHERTO ATTACHED TO OTHER
ACCORDS SIGNED AT HELSINKI AND THUS RENDER THE ACHIEVEMENT,
WHICH THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE CERTAINLY WAS, VALUELESS EVEN

BEFORE THE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE IN BELGRADE. END TEXT.
RADDAY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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